

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
9 December 1983

WASHINGTON

TEXAS CONGRESSMAN SAYS REAGAN MAY BE SENILE

Rep. Henry Gonzalez, D-Texas, said Friday he will formally protest the denial of a visa to Nicaraguan leader Tomas Borge and warned Reagan administration policies in Central America will lead to a bloodbath.

"I'm going to protest the denial of the visa to Commander Borge," Gonzalez told a news conference. "I'm going to talk to some of my colleagues and see if we want to, as a group, invite him to the United States.

"I believe the State Department is hardly qualified to say who should speak here."

On Nov. 30 the administration denied visas to Tomas Borge, a leader of the leftist government of Nicaragua, and Roberto d'Aubuisson, the leader of the rightist ARENA political party of El Salvador and president of the nation's Constituent Assembly.

Gonzalez said the action means the United States is refusing to become involved in dialogues with governments in the troubled region, and instead is using military force and the CIA.

"Unless the president modifies his stance and gives the regimes an attempt to modify, we're heading for a bloodbath and it will involve our soldiers," Gonzalez said. "If it were up to me, I would pull out all of our troops down there right now."

Gonzalez also said Reagan's refusal to change his policies in the region are a sign of old age, and perhaps senility.

"The only way he shows his age, as he's a good physical specimen, is his mental senility," Gonzalez said. "One of the aspects of senility is they get hard-headed and unable to modify their opinions and decisions."